

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1761

DATED 1st April 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

with remarks
Recording B's Prop regarding the conduct
of Mr. Platts, as a Commr. of Salt & Hkani
Rece in having ordered without permission
the officers in charge of the Achala circle to
proceed beyond his jurisdiction.

BACK PAPERS.

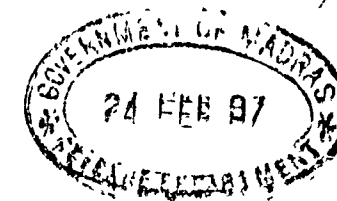
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 177



From

The Secretary to the Commissioner of
Salt, Alkari and Separate Revenue
Madras.

No. 586

Order

Dated 13th February 1897

Received 24 - 2 - 97

Registered 25 - 2 - 97

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT

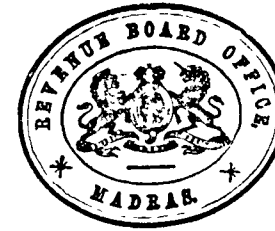
Submitting to Government with remarks,
letter from the Deputy Commissioner, Central
Division reporting on the conduct of Mr Platts
Assistant Commissioner, Bellary Division
in having ordered without previous sanction
the officer in charge of the Pakala circle out
of the circle limits to help him as an
interpreter in a certain enquiry held
by him at Kottapattanam in the Kanyas
circle and suggesting that Mr Platts
may be ordered to pass in Telugu
before the end of the current calendar year.

(1) ...
(2) ...
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C

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



(Separate Revenue.)

Dated 13th February, 1897.

Mis No. 586.

Read the following letter from the Deputy Commissioner,
Central Division B-293 dated 22nd January, 1897.

I have the honor to report the following matter
for the Board's information and orders, if necessary.

2. Under Circular order No 1 of 1893, para 4, the power to order an Inspector to leave his jurisdiction is restricted to Deputy Commissioners. In November last Assistant Commissioners, Mr P. H. H. having to make enquiry into a certain case against a petty officer of the Kanuparti factory, called away Mr Laybourn, the Inspector of the Pakala circle, to Kottapalam to interpret for him. The enquiry lasted for 3 days and the Inspector spent 2 days in coming and going and was apparently delayed for sometime afterwards by heavy rains before he

he could get back to Pakala.

3. Mr Platts' action in so taking the Inspector away from his circle being, as it appeared to me, not only contrary to the order quoted above, but most uncalled for, I directed him to submit an explanation which I hereto append for such orders as the Board may think fit to pass.

In addition to the irregularities noted above the explanation would appear to betray a great want of confidence on the part of the Assistant Commissioner in his Inspector.

Resolution.

Submitted to Government for such notice of Mr Platts' conduct as may be deemed necessary.

2. The facts are these. Mr Assistant Commissioner Platts had to enquire ^{into} the conduct of a petty officer of the Kanyaparti factory. He did not hold this enquiry at Kanyaparti, but at Kottapattanam, a place more than 5 miles distant. Having neglected to make himself conversant with Telugu during his service

in service in Telugu districts he had recourse to an interpreter; but instead of utilizing the services of one of the local officers, he called in Mr Daybarn, Inspector of Pakala Circle, who was in consequence absent from his circle for seven days. Under Section 4 of Circular order I of 1893, it is laid down that except in cases of emergency or on public duty under orders of the Deputy Commissioner, Inspectors must not be permitted by Assistant Commissioners to leave the limits of their circles; and every case in which such permission is given must be specially reported to the Board through the Deputy Commissioner. Mr Platts not only irregularly ordered the Inspector to leave his circle, but he omitted to report the circumstances to the Board, and he only alluded to it in his diary. This omission he lays at the door of a clerk whom he has punished for it. The enquiry should

of course have been held at Kaumparti. Mr. Platts' reason for not holding it there, is that his halt there "was limited by the Civil Service Regulations to 10 days" and that this period had been spent in inspection and other work. It is hardly necessary for the Board to point out that the Civil Service Regulations determine not the length of the time which an officer may spend without break at one camp, but the number of days for which he may draw Travelling Allowance there.

The Board is inclined to think that financial reasons rather than a misconstruction of the Civil Service Regulations were the cause: of Mr Platts' change of camp nor does his reason for dragging Mr Daybourn away from his circle commend itself to the Board.

Mr Platts says that as the enquiry was not held at Kaumparti, it was not possible for him

him to call in the Assistant Inspector Mr Beeson as interpreter and he was averse from making use of any of the Inspector's staff; because Mr Rangasami's conduct was in some degree impugned by the Petty officer.

3. The Board is of opinion that Mr Platts' explanation is unsatisfactory, none of his reasons being sound. The services of an Inspector as interpreter were not necessary: any clerk can interpret and Mr Platts' suspicion of his subordinates' good faith appears exaggerated.

4 But what strikes the Board as peculiarly unsatisfactory is that although Mr Platts has served continuously in Telugu District since July 1895, he has self-confessedly not acquired a sufficient knowledge of Telugu "to get even a hazy idea of the drift of a witness' answers". The Board is constrained to infer that he has deliberately neglected his opportunities and it considers that in

order

order to prevent a recurrence of such episodes as the one under reference, Mr Platts should be directed to pass Test C in Telugu before the close of this calendar year.

5. In the Establishment list Mr Platts is shown as having passed in Hindustani, Bengali, and Urdu. None of these languages enable an Assistant Commissioner to perform his duties satisfactorily in this Presidency. He might have been able to get on with them in Orissa but he has been moved from Orissa as his presence there was detrimental to the interests of the Department and the Board thinks that he, and not administration generally, should suffer from his ignorance of local languages.

(True Copy and Exact)

Kannurcille

Assistant Secretary

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

with a copy of Mr Platts' explanation

23/1/1917

Explanation of Mr Platts dated 11th January 1917

I beg to state that my inquiry was not held at Kampurki - It took place at Kotha-patnam which was the most convenient centre for the witnesses and others concerned in the inquiry.

A glance at the establishment list will show that with the exception of Mr S. R. Beeson, all the superior staff of the Kampurki circle are natives of the country. Mr S. R. Beeson could have acted as interpreter only if the inquiry had been held at Kampurki. My halt at Kampurki was limited by the Civil Service Regulations to 10 days. This period had already been taken up in the inspection of the factory, the passing of works etc.

Therefore the inquiry could not be held at Kampurki nor could Mr Beeson act as interpreter as both he and the Inspector could not leave the factory together. I could not moreover dispense with the Inspector's

Inspector's attendance as the manner of his previous inquiry had been called into question and he alone could explain certain very peculiar points in the case. Under these circumstances my choice of interpreters was limited to Mr R. R. Rungasami Iyer's subordinates.

I felt I could not trust the accuracy of such interpretation especially as I did not know enough of the language to get even a hazy idea of the general drift of a witness's answers. Moreover it has to be remembered that the petty officer openly said in a written petition that the Inspector's conduct was prejudiced towards him and it would have been anomalous to allow one of the Inspector's subordinates to interpret facts which called into question the method of the Inspector's inquiry. Furthermore the Sub Inspector of the Range in which the inquiry was made by me was himself one of the witnesses in the case. I therefore sent for

for the only European Officer in the nearest circle. The inquiry lasted from 18th to 21st November 1896 and under ordinary circumstances Mr Daybourn would have been away from his circle for only 5 days. But owing to heavy rain and flood both he and I were detained at Talpalam lock for 2 days making the total period of the Inspector's absence from his circle 7 days; if the Talpalam lock is not in his jurisdiction I do not know for certain, but I believe the lock in question lies in the Pakala circle. However under no circumstances did the work of the Pakala circle suffer from the fact of Mr Daybourn being with me at Kottapattanam - He did his office work precisely the same as if he were out of camp in any part of his circle. If I erred in taking the Pakala Inspector out of his jurisdiction I erred purely in the interests of the public service. I regret I was not able to get your previous sanction

Sanction as owing to the failure of my
2nd clerk in putting up the papers (and
for this he has been punished) the
date was fixed and summonses were
issued by me on the 14th November
only - 4 days previous to my inquiry
at Kottapalam. Nor could my inquiry be
postponed as the case originated in May 1896,
being one of the papers left for my disposal
by my predecessor, and the petty officer
was under suspension.

As mentioned by you I reported
that I had taken the suspect out
of his cuile in my diary for the week
in question

(Sd) S. G. L. Platts

(True Copy)

17.1.97

(Sd) C. G. Toddhunter

Ag. Dy. Commissioner

(True Copy)

Edmund Mallett

Assistant Secretary

The Hon. Mr. Bliss C. J. E.

No doubt Mr. Platts
~~and~~ adopted his present
procedure in order to make
more t.a. but I saw no reason
to doubt his bonafides in the
matter of ordering Mr. Laybourn
out of his circle to assist him -
As to his not knowing

Telegr. no doubt we shall soon
get rid of him -

After only say that in view
of the probability of his connection
with the Dept. soon terminating
~~the documents necessary~~ the
papers will be recorded.

BN

30/3/97

Dr. 11/21/97

29/1/97

C. No. 1717 of 1897.

For orders.

Mr. Platts, the
Assistant Commr. Kottam,
having to enquire into a certn.
Case against a Petty officer
of the Kaniaparti factory, called
away Mr. Laybourn, the
Inspector of the ~~neighbouring~~
Circle of Pakala, to Kotta-
palam, which is outside the
limits of the Pakala Circle,
and where the inquiry was
held, to act as interpreter
to him. His reasons for ^{not} hold-
ing the inquiry at Kani-
aparti ^(the head-quarter of this Circle of this same name) and for calling in
Mr. Laybourn were (1)
that he had already halted
for ten days at Kaniaparti,
that number of days, according
to him, being the maximum
period of halts as laid down
in the C.S. Regulations, & (2)
that as the inquiry was not
held at Kaniaparti, he could
not call in Mr. Besson, Asst
Inspector, attached to that fac-
tory

to interpret for him and
that he was averse to using
any of the Inspector's staff for
the purpose, because the Inspector
Mr. Rangaswami Aiyar's conduct
was in some degree impugned
by the Petty officer. [Mr. Lay-
bourne was absent from
his circle for seven days].
The fact of his having ordered
Mr. Laybourne to leave his
circle was not reported by
Mr. Platts to the Board, as
should have been done
under Sec 4 of C.O. I of
1893, but the circumstance
was mentioned in the diary.

2. The Board considers
that Mr. Platts held the in-
quiry at Kottapalam, instead
of at Hampatti, to enable
him to draw travelling
allowance, the restriction
laid down by the C.S.
Regulations applying only
to periods of halt ^{for which} ~~where~~
travelling allowance may be
claimed, that the services
of an ^{Inspector} ~~Inspector~~ as inter-
preter

no doubt.

1/2/57.

but that any clerk
have been asked to
pretend and that his ⁹⁷
of his subordinates' food ^{was}
seen exaggerated.

3. Though Mr. Platts
has been continuously em-
ployed in Telugu District
since July 1895, he has ad-
mittedly not acquired a
sufficient knowledge of
Telugu "to get even a
hazy idea of the drift of
a witness' answers".
Based inferences from this he
he has neglected his op-
portunities and considers
that he should be directed
to pass Test No. in Telugu
before the end of the current
Calendar year.

4. The special tests pre-
scribed for the officers of
the Salt, Akkari & Customs
Depts. apply only to Insp.
and officers of lower rank
but not to Assistant Com-
missioners, at all events.

once for seven days

issuances in the orders
turning upon the subject
G.O. No. 333 28th of
Oct. 88 & G.O. No. 317 29th dated
5-5-94). It is to be presumed,
however, that inspectors pro-
moted to be Assistant Com-
missioners will have con-
sulted with the examination
rules. In this connection
it may be stated broadly
that hitherto examination
rules have not been
strictly enforced both
in the case of first appoint-
ments and promotions and
that it was only ^{last} ~~this~~ year
that certain officers who
were promoted were informed
that they would have to
revert in the event of their
not passing the prescribed
examinations at the first
opportunity. (G.O. ²⁹⁵⁵ ~~333~~ 24-7-94)
& Mr Platts had been ap-
pointed permanent Asst-
Commissioner before this ^{order} ~~letter~~
was passed.

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prelor

5. Mr Platts' pre-
career since his arrival
this Presidency is set out
the notes under G.O. No.
No. 4067 of 10-10-96. He
one of the officers who
it is proposed to transfer
Orissa on the Madras Salt
Dept. severing its connection
with Orissa (vide para
6 of B.P. atp. 6 of G.O. 608
of 11-11-96).

6. If it is intended to
take notice of Mr. Platts'
conduct in having taken
Mr. Laybourn away from
his circle for seven days

My dear Sir,

Ans.
 $\frac{26}{26} \mid 3/97$

Opportunity (see file 2955)
24-7-90

Mr Platts had been ap-
pointed permanent Asst.
Commr. before this ^{order} ~~letter~~
was passed.

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C

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sp.
21/3/97

2 the N? (V. R) AK -
31/3/97
From sales

Read C. No 1717 of 1897
G. & West. No. 1761 d 1 April 97
 In view of the probability of the
 Platts' connection with the ^{Madras Salt Works.} the dept
 soon terminating, the papers will
 be recorded

11/4/97.

To the Board of Revenue (Sap: Rev:)
Dec. 5-4-97

When given for copying _____
When copied _____ } 189.
When examined _____
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT N

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

A A A A A A A

N.B.—
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